

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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1. Following the killing of the Yugoslav Chief of Staff, General Arso Jovanovic, on the Rumanian frontier during his attempted escape in 1948, Lt. Colonel Vlado Dapcevic was captured and taken to Belgrade.<sup>1</sup> Because he feared that the liquidation of Vlado Dapcevic might provoke his brother, General Peko Dapcevic, "hero of the partisan struggle" and of Montenegrin Communists, Tito was compelled to save Vlado Dapcevic. He is kept in the military prison of Belgrade where he enjoys all privileges. Tito is willing to free him if he "recants", but Dapcevic prefers to remain faithful to the Cominform.<sup>2</sup>
2. Another of General Dapcevic's brothers, Colonel Mitar Dapcevic, was in Rumania at the time of the Tito-Cominform break. He remained in Rumania, becoming one of the military chiefs of the Yugoslav Cominformists.

Comments:

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1. Vlado Dapcevic was arrested in 1948 during his attempted escape to Rumania and condemned to twenty years hard labor.

2. [redacted] the present Yugoslav Chief of Staff, General Peko Dapcevic, had been a friend of pre-Soviet Generals Jovanovic and Zujovic; the former was killed while attempting to flee Yugoslavia and the latter captured at the Yugoslav-Rumanian border with Dapcevic's brother, Vlado, who was also attempting to escape. Peko Dapcevic was reportedly ordered to attend the trial of his brother, towards whom he showed no friendliness, to indicate that the regime considered him "politically pure" and that he considered his brother guilty of treason. General Peko Dapcevic was cleared of all suspicion before his appointment as Deputy Chief of Staff.

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